

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 102255 TOSEC 040193  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH:FLW:MGH  
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE  
NSC:MARMACOST  
S/S:SVALERGA

-----002832 212200Z /65

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL FLASH  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO FLASH  
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102255 TOSEC 040193

EXDIS/FOR AMBASSADOR SNEIDER AND MANSFIELD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON KOREAN TROOP  
WITHDRAWAL

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT IS PLANNED TO  
BE ISSUED BY THE WHITE HOUSE AT 1700.(APRIL 21 EST).
  2. WE ARE INFORMING AMBASSADOR KIM ANDTOGO, PROVIDING THEM  
GIST OF THE TEXT SHORTLY PRIOR TO ISSUANCE.
  3. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THIS DECISION IS AN ADJUSTMENT  
IN OUR PLANS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE THE KINDS OF CONCERNS  
THAT THE KOREANS AND JAPANESE MIGHT HAVE OVER POSSIBLE  
DELAYS BY THE CONGRESS IN ACTING ON PENDING COMPENSATORY  
MEASURES RELATED TO THE WITHDRAWAL PROGRAM.
- CONFIDENTIAL

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4. TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND IN  
NORTHEAST ASIA ARE VITAL TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. THIS

NATION IS FULLY DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK).

IN ANNOUNCING MY DECISION TO WITHDRAW OUR GROUND COMBAT FORCES FROM KOREA OVER A 4-5 YEAR PERIOD, I STRESSED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVE SOUTH KOREA DEFENSE FORCES SO AS TO CONFIDENTLY MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE MILITARY BALANCE ON THE PENINSULA. I ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT WE WILL TAKE OTHER MEASURES TO MAINTAIN THAT BALANCE, INCLUDING INCREASING OUR AIR FORCE IN KOREA IN OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. I ALSO ASKED THE CONGRESS LAST OCTOBER TO APPROVE A PROGRAM TO HELP STRENGTHEN SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY CAPABILITIES, PARTICULARLY LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER TO SOUTH KOREA OF A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE EQUIPMENT OF OUR DEPARTING GROUND COMBAT FORCES.

IN VIEW OF THE CROWDED LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR AND ALSO BECAUSE OF OTHER MATTERS CONCERNING KOREA, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT CONGRESS MAY NOT ACT NOW ON THIS PROPOSAL. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, I BELIEVE IT PRUDENT TO ADJUST THE SCHEDULED WITHDRAWALS.

-- THE REDEPLOYMENT OF NON-COMBAT ELEMENTS WILL CONTINUE ON SCHEDULE; 2600 SUCH PERSONNEL WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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REMOVED BY DECEMBER 31, 1978.

-- ONE COMBAT BATTALION FROM THE 2ND DIVISION WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM KOREA IN DECEMBER; HOWEVER, THE OTHER TWO COMBAT BATTALIONS OF THE BRIGADE SLATED FOR WITHDRAWAL THIS YEAR WILL REMAIN IN KOREA UNTIL 1979.

-- THE PLAN TO INCREASE THE U.S. AIR FORCES IN KOREA WILL NOT BE CHANGED.

PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHEAST ASIA ARE VITAL TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST. I URGE THE CONGRESS TO ENACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE AUTHORIZATION FOR \$275 MILLION IN FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE CREDITS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF

KOREA WHICH I HAVE ALSO PROPOSED, AND TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO DEAL WITH THE EQUIPMENT TRANSFER LEGISLATION. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 21 apr 1978  
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**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL  
**TAGS:** MARR, SOPN, MPOL, KS, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
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